

Monitoring Question

Are avoidance or mitigation measures effective and being followed as recommended in project designs? 2) Are heritage resources being damaged or threatened in non-project areas?

Monitoring Conducted

Inventory

Objective. O-HR-1. *Identify, evaluate, protect, monitor, & preserve heritage resources.*

The Forest Plan and the 5 year heritage work plan direct Superior National Forest (SNF) staff to identify, evaluate, protect, monitor and interpret heritage resources on the SNF.

Heritage sites within designated project areas are inventoried primarily to satisfy the requirements of the **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966** (as amended). Heritage sites identified within project areas are monitored subsequent to inventory for the purposes of determining whether or not recommended mitigation measures are implemented by the functional area responsible for the project and to document whether or not the recommended mitigation was effective in protecting the heritage resource.

Approximately 24,000 acres were subject to heritage inventories during the 2006 field season. Six new sites were documented through inventory. Inventory included hazard fuel burn units within and outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), campsite and portage inventory for heritage sites, proposed treatment units in the Virginia, Dunka, Echo Trail and other smaller project areas. Each inventory consists of a pre-field archival search, field inventory if needed and post field reporting and artifact processing. **114** previously inventoried heritage sites were monitored, mostly opportunistically, in conjunction with planned inventory projects. In addition, a less than **10%** sample of several past project areas were monitored to test the effectiveness of current inventory methodology.

Interpretation and Protection

A subset of evaluated, eligible sites (**12** sites) which were open to public interpretation in the past are monitored annually to determine whether or not their public nature has made them more subject to vandalism.

Known burial sites are monitored annually to insure no impacts are occurring through SNF projects or visitor use of the adjacent areas.

3 sites were evaluated during the 2006 field season including completion of the field portion of the evaluation of a Passport in Time (PIT) project (Gordon's Site).



Photo 1. 2006 UMD Field School

Evaluation and Conclusions

Inventory, Interpretation, and Protection

Ongoing site monitoring suggests the integrity of some heritage sites is deteriorating over time, especially on campsites subject to extremely heavy visitor use (in and out of the BWCAW). National Forest Service policy is to “flag and avoid” impact to sites located within project areas. Campsite project work and campsite use by the visiting public precludes this “flag and avoid” policy at campsites. Continued heavy public use of these campsites is likely to further affect the heritage sites.

Standards and Guidelines

Twelve applicable Standards and Guidelines were monitored during 2006 and all were implemented successfully. Two standards involved inventory and monitoring, two dealt with documentation, two include collaboration with and guidance from other agencies, one involves planning support, and the remaining standards revolve around management and protection.

Necessary Follow-up Actions and Management Recommendations

Management Recommendation

After reviewing monitoring findings, the Forest Interdisciplinary Team identified the following management recommendation to carry forward in 2007 and beyond. A complete list of management actions can be found in Appendix B.

- ✧ Ensure heritage mitigation measures are effective within heavily used recreation areas across the SNF (including the BWCAW). Heritage site monitoring over time indicates some heritage sites are being affected by recreation use, especially on campsites subject to extremely heavy visitor use.

Collaborative Opportunities To Improve Efficiency And Quality Of Program

Partnerships

Contributions from 3 partners helped the SNF complete 3 projects during 2006. The partners were: (1) Passport In Time, Gunflint Trail Historical Society (GTHS), and University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD). Projects completed included the Chikwauk Lodge rehabilitation PIT project (GTHS), Sand Lake PIT project, and the Knife Lake Lillian Joyce site evaluation (see Photo 1, UMD Field School).

Summary Conclusions

- ✧ Approximately 24,000 acres were inventoried for heritage resources resulting in the documentation of 6 new sites.
- ✧ 114 previously inventoried heritage sites, 12 eligible sites open to public interpretation, and 12 burial sites were monitored.
- ✧ 3 sites associated with a Passport in Time project were evaluated.
- ✧ Ensure heritage mitigation measures are effective within heavily used recreation areas across the SNF (including the BWCAW). Heritage site monitoring over time indicates some heritage sites are being affected by recreation use, especially on campsites subject to extremely heavy visitor use.